(b) if so, whether it is also ;a fact that the number of the people living above the poverty line in Bihar, Orissa, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and Madhya Pradesh is more in comparison to the national level and whether Government have any plan to bring down the said level; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) Based on the latest large sample survey on household consumer expenditure conducted by the National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO) in its 55th Round, the percentage of people living below poverty line in the country has been estimated as 26.10 per cent in 1999-2000.

(b) and (c) The percentage of people living below poverty line in Bihar, Orissa, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and Madhya Pradesh is more in comparison to the national level. Government has been implementing number of poverty alleviation programmes throughout the country for the people living below poverty line. Allocation under these programmes is decided on the basis of proportion of poor living in each State. For Bihar and KBK districts of Orissa, special programme has been launched under Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana.

Upliftment of women above poverty line

†3135. SHRI ISAM SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 70 per cent of the total population living below poverty line are women;

(b) if so, the action plan contemplated by Government to uplift the women above poverty line; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) Planning Commission estimates number of persons living below poverty line using data of household consumer expenditure which is available for the household as a unit. This data does not permit separate estimates of poverty for women.

(b) and (c) In view of (a) above, do not arise.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.